

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning and Facilities

Planning for bicycle and pedestrian facilities continues throughout Indiana. Many communities are updating and refining their earlier bicycle and pedestrian plans.

Since the mid-1990s the Indiana *Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Planning and Development Plan* has been an element of the statewide multimodal transportation plan. INDOT now incorporates sidewalks, separated bicycle-pedestrian paths and concrete box culverts in many of its projects to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Demand for bicycle racks is growing. Hammond, Fort Wayne, Lafayette and Indianapolis mount bicycle racks on many of their buses. Tunnels will provide grade-separated access for non-motorized use in Columbus, Schererville, Merrillville, Portage and Indianapolis.

Pedestrian facilities in Indiana deserve notice. When new highway bridges were built across the Wabash River in Lafayette and the White River in Indianapolis, the old bridges were converted for exclusive use by bicyclists, pedestrians and others choosing not to drive.

Indiana's Rail-Trails

A number of important rail-trails are under development in Indiana. The Cardinal Greenway, part of the 6,000-mile American Discovery Trail, will extend about 60 miles and connect Richmond, Muncie and Marion. From Chesterton in Porter County to Griffith in Lake County, the 22-mile Oak Savannah-Prairie Duneland Trail is but one of several rail-trail conversion projects in Northwestern Indiana. Nationwide there are over 10,000 miles of rail-trail. In Indiana there will be about 86 miles of rail-trails open by year's end.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

The number of crashes involving bicycles increased significantly and the number of pedestrian crashes remained steady in 1998. Bicycle-related injuries were up again from the previous year. It is noteworthy that there were more pedestrian injuries than accidents involving pedestrians, suggesting multiple injuries occurred in some of the incidents. Unfortunately, the number of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities remained about the same during 1998 compared to the previous year.

Crash Type	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Vehicle/Bicycle							
Crashes	1460	1447	1485	1511	1330	1307	1399
Fatalities	19	10	10	14	6	14	13
Injuries	1355	1355	1390	1383	1200	1177	1271
Vehicle/Pedestrian							
Crashes	1831	1724	1941	2332	1887	1804	1802
Fatalities	74	64	76	76	78	77	74
Injuries	1846	1714	1754	2136	1723	1811	1814

Sources: INDOT Multimodal Transportation Division, INDOT Program Development Division and Indiana State Police.